

Message Text

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ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCS-03 EB-07 SCA-01

DLOS-03 CG-00 DOTE-00 /060 W
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O R 0260036Z JAN 75 ***4

FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3621

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EFIS, EC

SUBJ: SEIZURE OF TUNA VESSELS

REF: STATE 018361

1. DUTY OFFICER AT SALINAS NAVAL BASE CONFIRMED CAPTURE U.S. TUNA VESSELS AND ESTIMATED THEY WOULD ARRIVE IN SALINAS JAN. 25 AT 2100 HOURS LOCAL TIME. (HE DID NOT KNOW HOW MANY BOATS SEIZED OR WHERE CAPTURED.) CONSUL WILLIAM SCHRAGE DEPARTED GUAYAQUIL FOR SALINAS AT 1830 HOURS.

2. AS OF 1830 CONGEN UNABLE CONTACT BY TELEPHONE SALINAS PORT CAPTAIN, LT. FRANKLIN VEGA, WHO WILL INITIALLY HAVE JURISDICTION OVER BOATS. AT 1800 CONSUL GENERAL CONTACTED CAPT. WILSON ARROYO, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FISHERIES, WHO HAD RETURNED FROM QUITO AT 1730. ARROYO SAID HE HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN INFORMED OF CAPTURES. STATED

HE MUST FIRST BE OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED OF SEIZURES BY NAVY AT WHICH TIME

WOULD GO TO SALINAS AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

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3. AT 1830 CONGEN RECEIVED PHONE CALL FROM GUNTER BUEHS, INEPACA (VAN CAMP SUBSIDIARY) PLANT MANAGER IN MANTA. BUEHS HAD BEEN INFORMED BY VAN CAMP CALIFORNIA OFFICE THAT THREE OF ITS SHIPS HAD BEEN CAPTURED--THE CITY OF LISBON, MARY ELIZABETH, AND CALYPSO. BUEHS INSTRUCTIONS ARE "TO TRY TO HELP OUT BUT NOT GET INVOLVED". BUEHS HAS CONTACTED VINCENT YULLEE, STARKIST AGENT IN ECUADOR, TO ACT AS VAN CAMP REPRESENTATIVE IN THIS MATTER. BUEHS STATED HE WOULD DO AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM CALIFORNIA TO GUAYAQUIL OFFICES OF BANK OF AMERICA OR FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE AND INEPACA WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN IN BACKGROUND IN TRANSACTIONS WITH ECUADOREAN AUTHORITIES.

4. AFTERNOON PRESS REPORTS (SEE PARA 5, BELOW) STATE FOUR BOATS CAPTURED, THREE BOATS MENTIONED REFTEL AND "JACQUELINE". OSWALDO TRUJILLO, MANAGER OF ECUATUN, ALSO MENTIONED "JACQUELINE" AS ONE OF THOSE SEIZED, IN PHONE CALL TO CONGEN, BUT WE HAVE THUS FAR RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION CONCERNING THIS FOURTH BOAT.

5. BOTH JAN 25 GUAYAQUIL AFTERNOON NEWSPAPERS CARRIED IDENTICAL AEP (ECUADOREAN PRESS AGENCY) STORIES CONCERNING FISHING BOAT CAPTURES. "LA RAZON" HEADLINE "4 UNITED STATES PIRATE SHIPS CAPTURED"; "EXTRA" HEADLINE "4 UNITED STATES FISHING SHIPS CAPTURED", SUB-HEADLINE "AT 40 MILES FROM SALINAS". INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF ARTICLE FOLLOWS: QUOTE: "FOUR PIRATE FISHING BOATS UNDER NORTHAMERICAN FLAG WERE CAPTURED THIS MORNING BY UNITS OF ECUADOREAN FLEET THAT SURPRISED THE FOREIGN SHIPS WHILE THEY WERE ILLEGALLY FISHING WITHIN OUR TERRITORIAL WATERS ABOUT FOURTY MILES FROM SALINAS".

6. THE CAPTURE OF THE UNITED STATES BOATS, THAT BELONG TO A LARGE TUNA FLEET THAT HAS ITS HEADQUARTERS IN SAN DIEGO, WAS EFFECTED BY THE BAE MORAAN VALVERDE, ESMERALDAS, AND CAYAMBE (ECUADOREAN PATROL BOATS) THAT WERE SAILING UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE FLEET COMMANDER, CPT. CARLOS FLORES USCATEGUI.

7. THE PIRATE SHIPS WERE FIRST OBSERVED AT 4 AM IN THE FOLLOWING POSITION: 01 DEGREE 46 MINUTES SOUTH LATITUDE AND 82 DEGREES 50 MINUTES WEST LONGITUDE, WHEN THE SQUADRON COMMANDER IMMEDIATELY GAVE THE ORDER "HALT" AND CARRIED OUT SPPROPRIATE BOARDING PROCEDURES, AT THE SAME TIME INFORMING SUPERIOR NAVAL AUTHORITIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE EVENT.

8. THE GOUR PIRATE SHIPS WERE IDENTIFIED WITH THE FOLLOWING NAMES:
"JACQUELINE", "CALIPSO", "CITY OF LISBON", AND "MARY ELIZABETH", ALL
OF THEM RELAPERS ("REINCIDENTES") IN THIS KIND OF CLANDESTINE
OPERATION WITHIN ECUADOREAN TERRITORIAL WATERS.

9. AS SOON AS THE ILLEGALITY OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE NORTHAMERICAN
PIRATE FISHING BOATS WAS ESTABLISHED, THEY WERE DIRECTED TO PROCEED
TO SALINAS, AT THE SAME TIME THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FISHING WAS
NOTIFIED OF THE EVENT SO THAT HE COULD GO IMMEDIATELY TO SALINAS
SO THAT HE COULD OBTAIN THE INFORMATION REQUIRED TO JUDGE THE
INFRACTION COMMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES SHIPS." END QUOT.

10. COMMENT.

A. OF FOUR BOATS LISTED AS CAPTURED BY PRESS, ONLY "CITY OF
LISBON" HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY SEIZED (ON JAN 15, 1972) ACCORDING TO
CONGEN RECORDS.

B. CAPITAN DE FRIGATA CARLOS FLORES UZCATEGUI IS COMMANDER
IN CHIEF OF ECUADORAN NAVAL SQUADRON (COMMANDE EN JEFE DE LA
ESCUADRA).

C. IN ADDITION TO ARROYO, BUEHS, AND TRUJILLO, I ALSO SPOKE
WITH RAMON GONZALEZ (DEL MONTE MANAGER IN MANTA) DURING AFTERNOON
OF JAN. 25. I RECEIVED STRONG INDICATIONS FROM ALL THAT ECUADOREAN
AUTHORITIES WILL MOVE SLOWLY AND CAUTIOUSLY IN DEALING WITH CAPTURED
BOATS BECAUSE EACH ACTION WILL BE PRECEDENT-SETTING INTERPRETATION
OF NEW ECUADOREAN FISHING LAW AND REGULATIONS.
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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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